



United States Embassy La Paz, Bolivia

CONSULAR SECTION

Avenida Arce 2780 between calles Campos and Cordero

Webpage: <http://lapaz.usembassy.gov>

Email: consularlapaz@state.gov

TEMPORARY WORKER VISAS (H-1, H-2, H-3)

Section 101(a)(15)(H) of the Immigration and Nationality Act provides the category of nonimmigrant for a person who wishes to work **TEMPORARILY** in the United States, according to the following classification:

- **H-1B**, to perform a job that demands the theoretical and practical application of highly specialized knowledge, requiring completion of the course of higher education pertinent to the work area.
- **H-2A**, to perform seasonal agricultural activities for which there are no available workers in the United States.
- **H-2B**, to perform, other specific activities, for which there are no available workers in the United States, such as ski instructors. This classification requires a temporary labor certification issued by the Secretary of Labor.
- **H-3**, to receive training by invitation of an individual, organization or company, in any field (except training for medical graduates). In this category, the origin of the income of the applicant is irrelevant. This classification also applies to practical training in the education of the handicapped. The applicants receiving any type of training in learning institutions or educational organizations are excluded.
- **H-4**. It is granted to the spouse and the children under 21 so that they can accompany the main applicant. However, **they CANNOT accept employment** in the United States. The main applicant must demonstrate that he/she has enough financial resources to provide sustenance for himself/herself and his/her family in the United States.

PROCEDURE:

The employer in the United States that provides employment or training to the person initiates the application procedure and complies with the required paperwork in the INS center of its area (by completing an original and a copy of I-129H Form, and by providing supporting documentation.)

The employer will receive a notification from INS by means of **a I-797 or I-171C Form**; it will keep a copy and will give (or send via mail) **the original approved application** to the worker, so that he/she can apply for a visa at the American Consulate in his/her country.

SPECIAL SITUATIONS

- Separated applications are required when an exceptionally skilled person travels to the United States to fulfill a series of commitments emerging from more than one contract. The separate applications can be waived only when the application is presented by an agent or representative of the applicant, who will detail all the contracts in a single application.

- If the person, once he/she is in the United States with an **H** visa, decides to change his/her employer, it is required that the new employer complete a new application with INS for that person. The same procedure will take place if there are changes or amendments to the work conditions.
- More than one person can be included in one application when they are part of a group (e.g. orchestras, music bands, coworkers who will receive the same training, etc.)

APPLYING FOR H VISA AT THE UNITED STATES EMBASSY IN LA PAZ

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT FOR NON-RESIDING ALIENS IN BOLIVIA APPLYING FOR H VISA FOR THE FIRST TIME: The Consular Section will process the **first** H visa upon the presentation of the original Notice of Approval, Form I-797 or I-717C, of the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) **ONLY** for Bolivian or alien citizens that have permanent residence status in Bolivia and have their corresponding I.D. card (Carnet de Identidad.) For the rest of applicants, the consular section requires that an I-129H application form, approved by the INS, be sent to its offices. The notice of approval of INS alone will not be sufficient in order to receive a visa.

HOW TO APPLY FOR THIS VISA IN LA PAZ:

1. This type of visa does not require the scheduling of an interview or using the services of DHL.
2. The applicant and/or dependent relatives can come to the Consulate any day Monday through Thursday from 11:00am to 12:00pm.
3. The day of the interview, the applicant should bring the following documents:
 - Visa application form [DS-156](#) (available at the Consular Section, in all [DHL Courier offices](#) and [online](#))
 - In case of male applicants ages 16 to 45, they should bring Supplemental Visa Form [DS-157](#) (available at the Consular Section, in all [DHL Courier offices](#) and [online](#))
 - \$100 receipt for visa application (paid prior to the interview at any [BISA Bank office](#))
 - One 5 x 5 cm (2 x 2 inch) photograph of the applicant. The photograph should be non-glossy, have a white background and be of good quality. The subject in the photo must be facing forward and only the face should be visible.
 - The applicant's valid passport.
 - The original Notice of Approval Form I-797 or I-717C, issued by the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS).

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For suggestions on what you should bring to the interview, please click [here](#).

For answers to Frequently Asked Questions Regarding Non-Immigrant Visas, please click [here](#).

For answers to specific questions, please e-mail us at consularlapaz@state.gov.